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SERIES

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# KNUCKLES

## THE ECHIDNA



DIRECT EDITION



# **GNUCKLES™**

## **BOOK NINETEEN**

### **The Forbidden Zone**

**Part One of Three**

**Ken Penders**

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**Manny Galan**

Penciler

**Andrew Pepoy**

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Letterer

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Editor

**Victor Gorelick**

Managing Editor

**Richard Goldwater**

Editor-in-Chief

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses,  
the latest to continue the family heritage  
and responsibility as  
**GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND,**  
defender of all the forces of evil from the world  
beyond as well as those who would  
threaten within, he is none other than...  
**GNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**



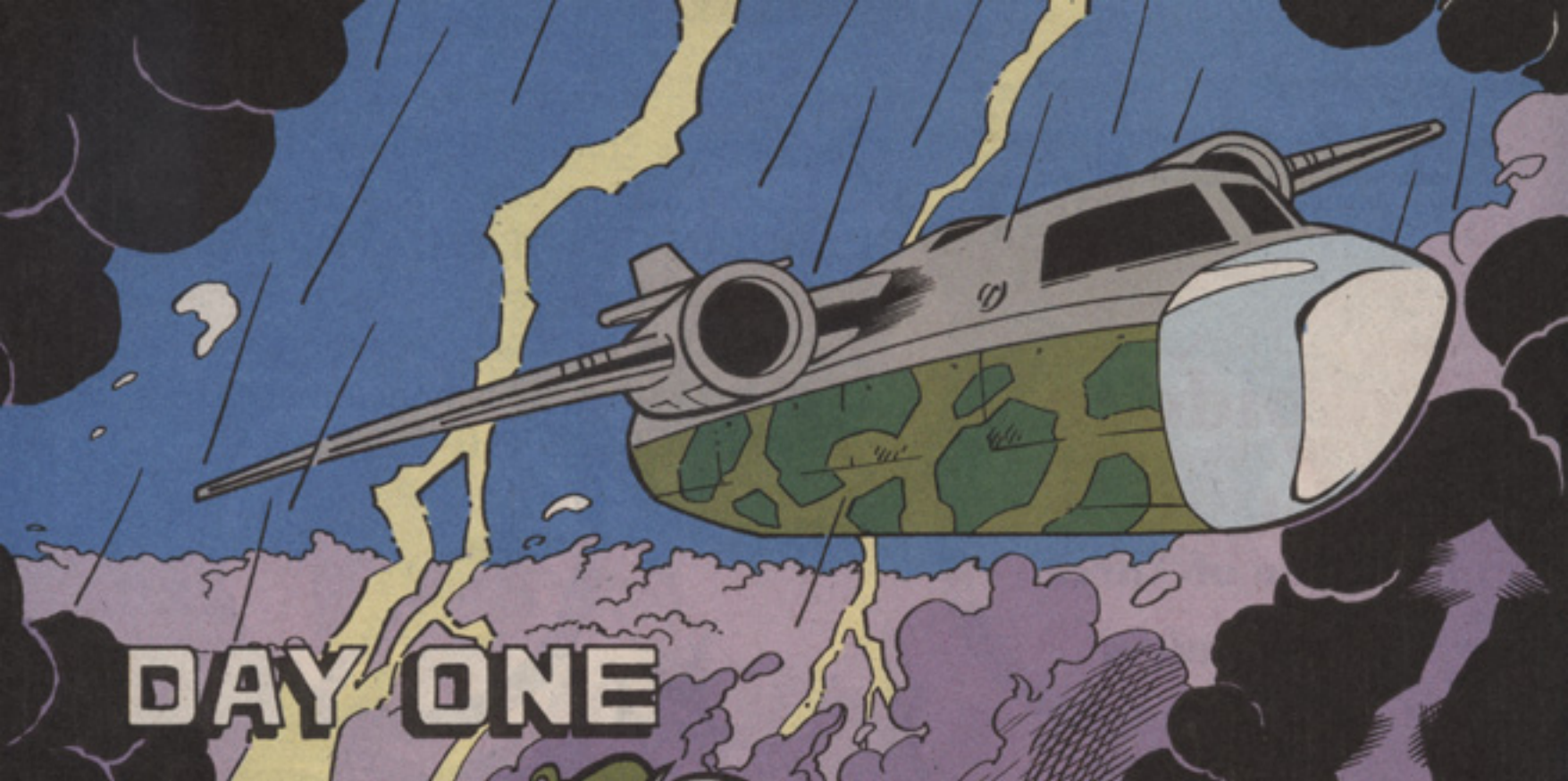
**M**any years ago, during the Great War, when Princess Sally was but an infant, King Acorn sent his wife Queen Alicia to The Floating Island in order to insure the safety of his Queen and the future of Mobotropolis. It resulted in failure.

Recently, the newly-returned, now-healthy King assigned a squad of his elite commandos to return to The Floating Island and ascertain the true fate of his loved ones.

It is here our tale begins...

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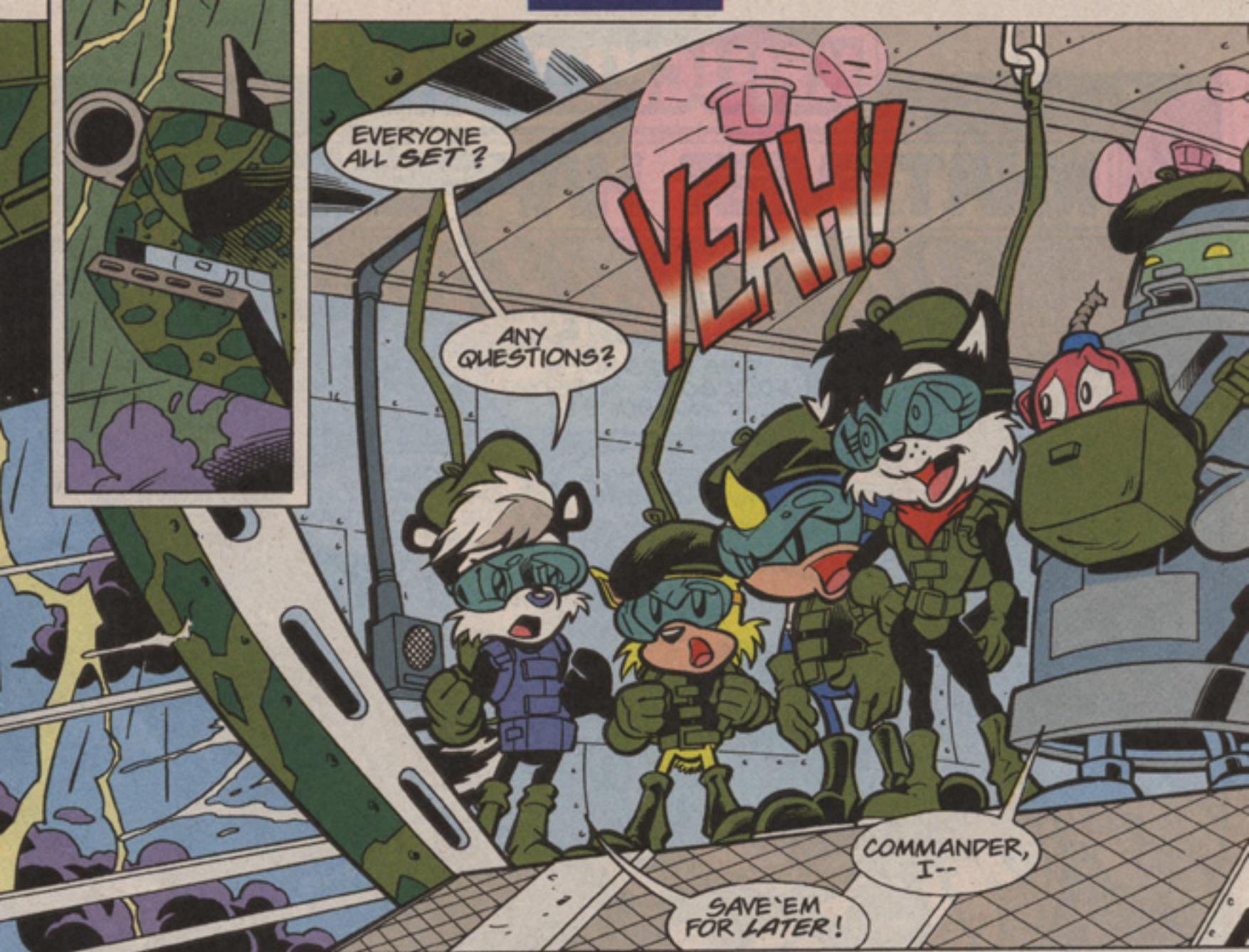




# DAY ONE









**KNUCKLES IN:**

**WHATEVER HAPPENED TO**

*Queen Alicia?*

THIS DOES NOT  
LOOK GOOD--NOT GOOD  
AT ALL, BOMB!

SOMETHING'S  
WRONG HERE!

ONLY  
ONE PLACE ON  
THE ISLAND HAS  
SNOW--

--AND THIS  
AIN'T IT!

I'M MORE AMAZED  
AT HOW QUICK THE RAIN  
TURNED TO SNOW!

SNOW! RAIN!  
WHAT DIFFERENCE  
DOES IT MAKE?!

IT'S STILL WATER NO  
MATTER WHAT YOU CALL IT!  
YEEEEECHH!









FORTUNATELY--

--I WAS  
DESIGNED TO  
BE MOBILE IN A  
WIDE RANGE OF  
ENVIRONMENTS!



K-KLIP!

WHRRRRR...



LET'S GET OUR  
BEARINGS,  
FIRST!

NO TELLING HOW FAR  
WE MAY HAVE LANDED  
OFF TARGET!

VALDEZ?

FORGET IT,  
COMMANDER!  
IN THIS WEATHER,  
ALL I CAN GIVE YOU IS  
MY BEST GUESS!



AND WHAT WOULD  
THAT BE?

I'M NOT SURE,  
BUT I'D SWEAR  
THOSE ARE SOME  
OF THE  
SANDOPOLIS  
RHINS!

IF  
THAT'S SO,  
NORTH  
IS TO OUR  
RIGHT!



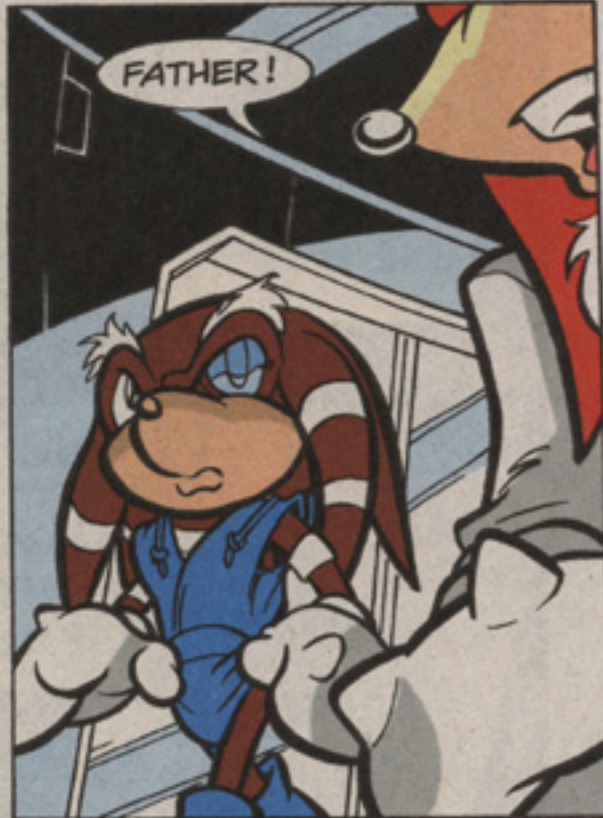
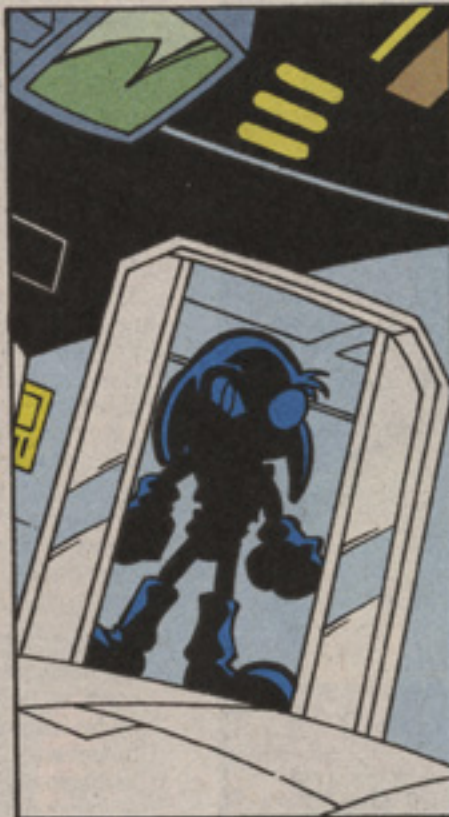
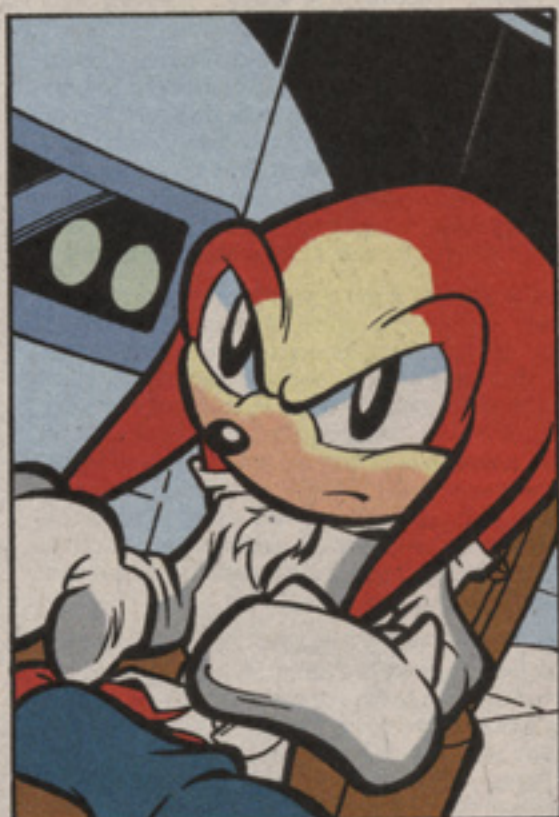
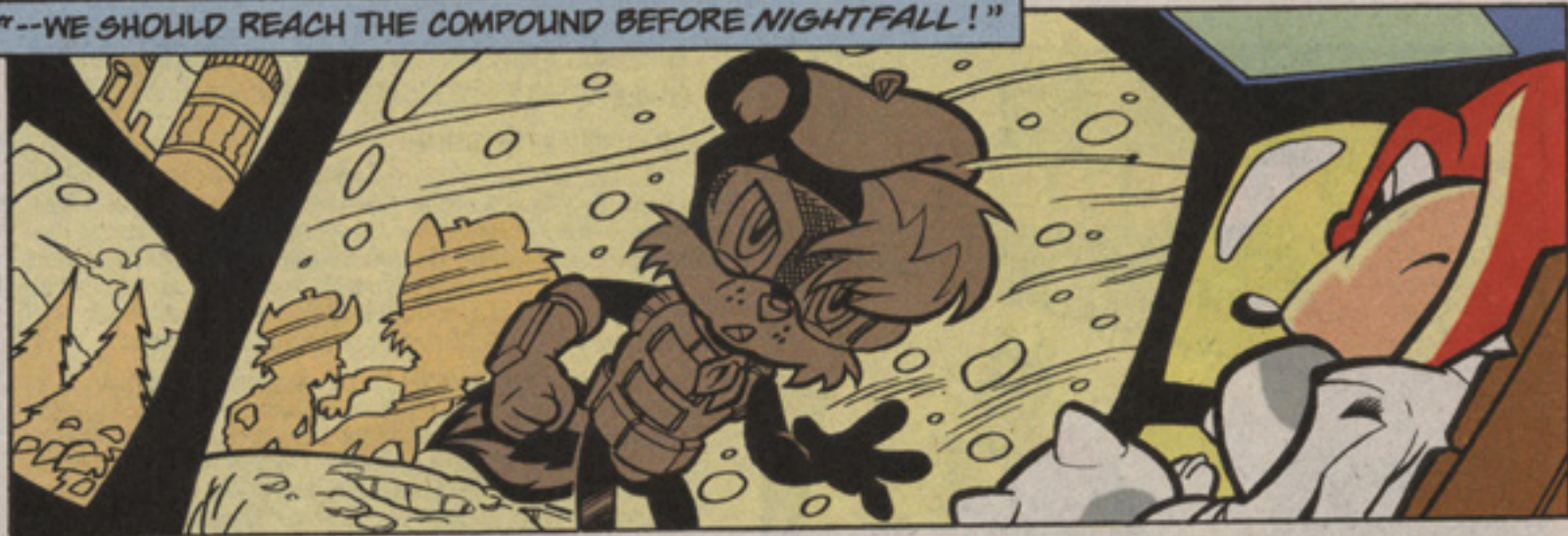
YOU HEARD  
VALDEZ,  
EVERYONE!

THAT MEANS--  
BEST GUESS--THAT THE  
ROYAL COMPOUND  
SHOULD BE LEFT AT  
10:00!

WITH ANY  
LUCK--



"--WE SHOULD REACH THE COMPOUND BEFORE NIGHTFALL!"



FATHER!

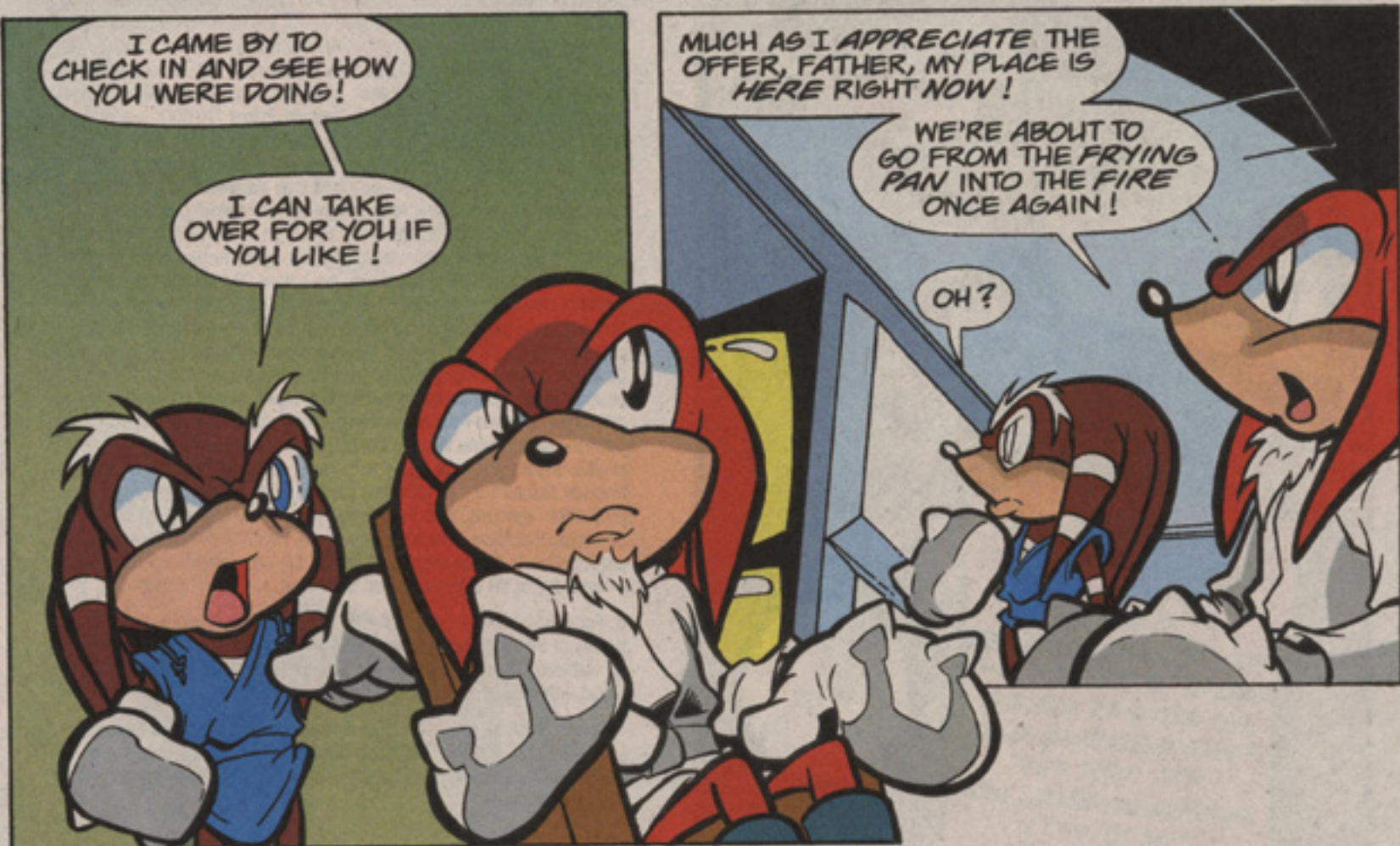
I CAME BY TO  
CHECK IN AND SEE HOW  
YOU WERE DOING!

I CAN TAKE  
OVER FOR YOU IF  
YOU LIKE!

MUCH AS I APPRECIATE THE  
OFFER, FATHER, MY PLACE IS  
HERE RIGHT NOW!

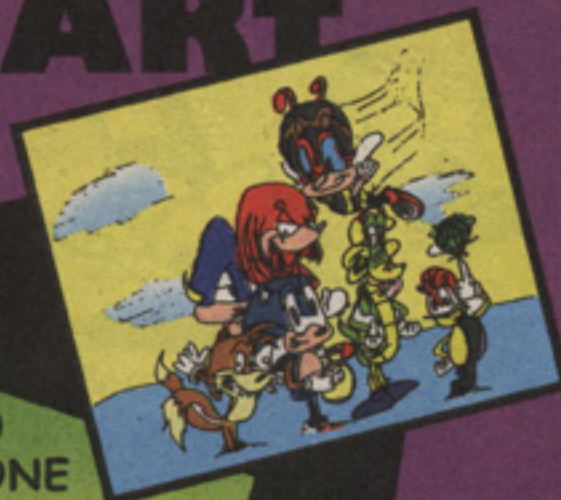
WE'RE ABOUT TO  
GO FROM THE FRYING  
PAN INTO THE FIRE  
ONCE AGAIN!

OH?

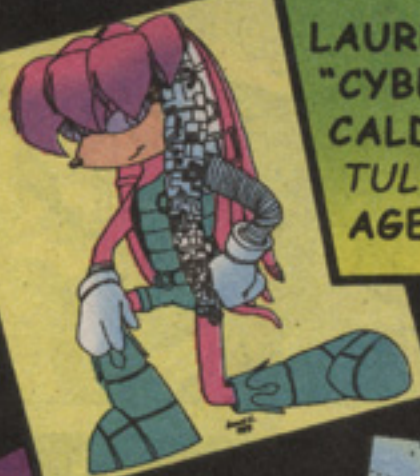




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**CARLO  
SPACONE  
GLENDALE, AZ  
AGE 8**



**LAUREL  
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N.S.W.  
AGE 13**



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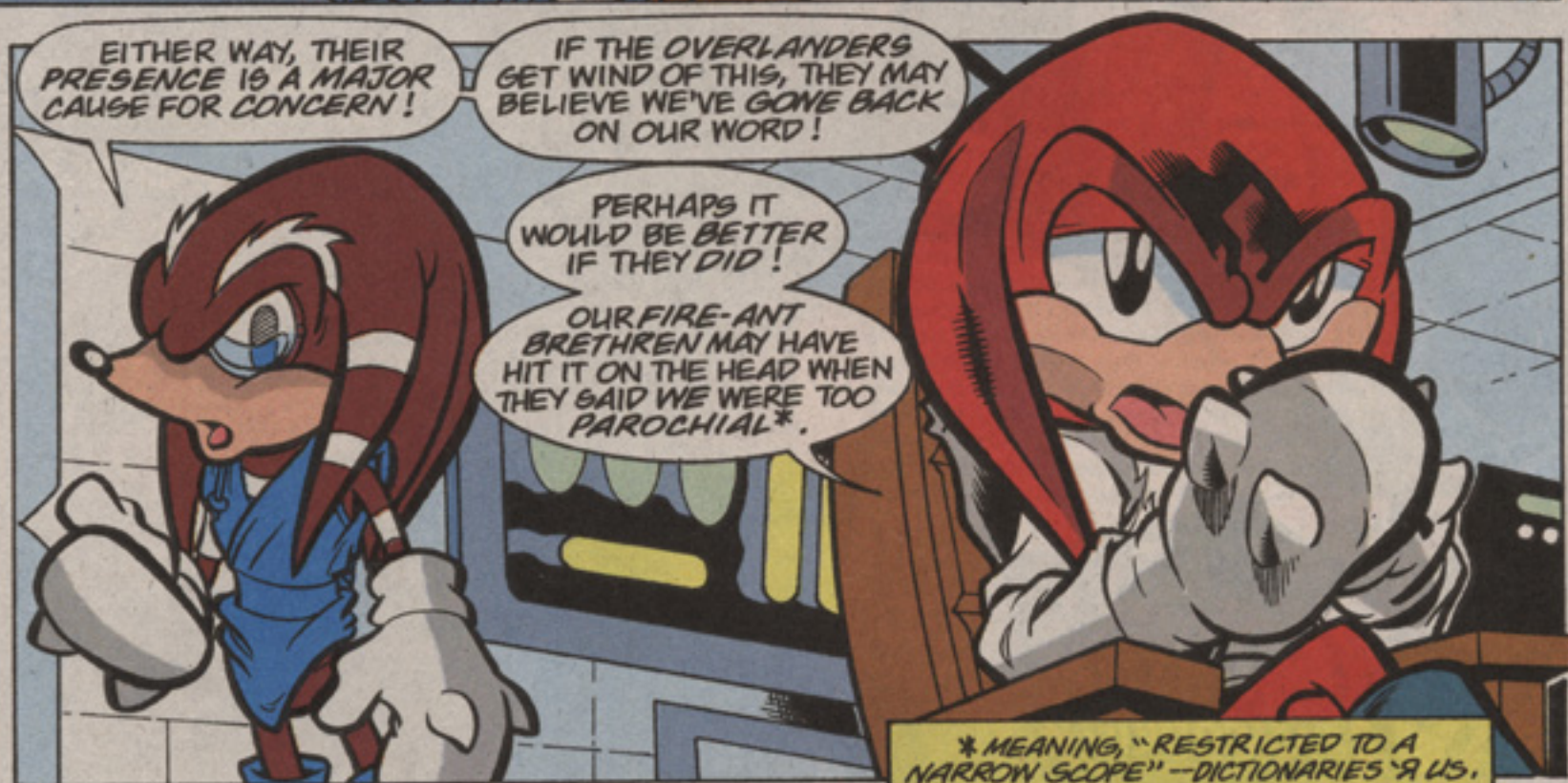
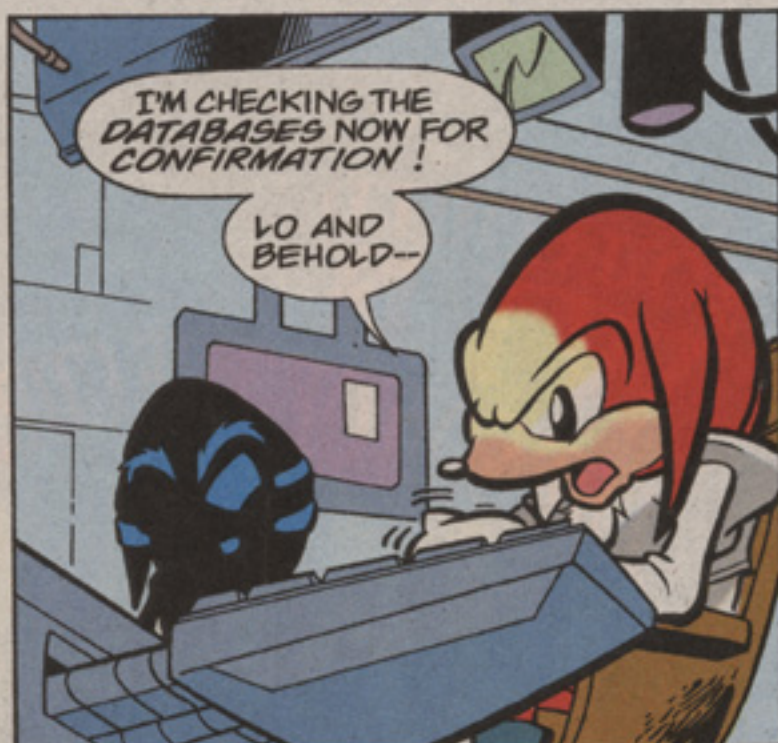
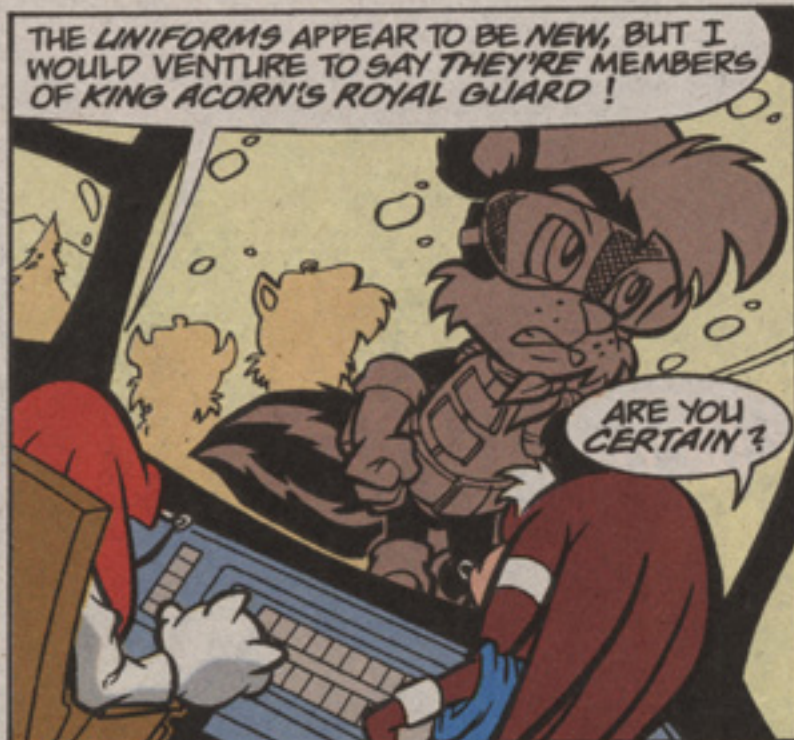
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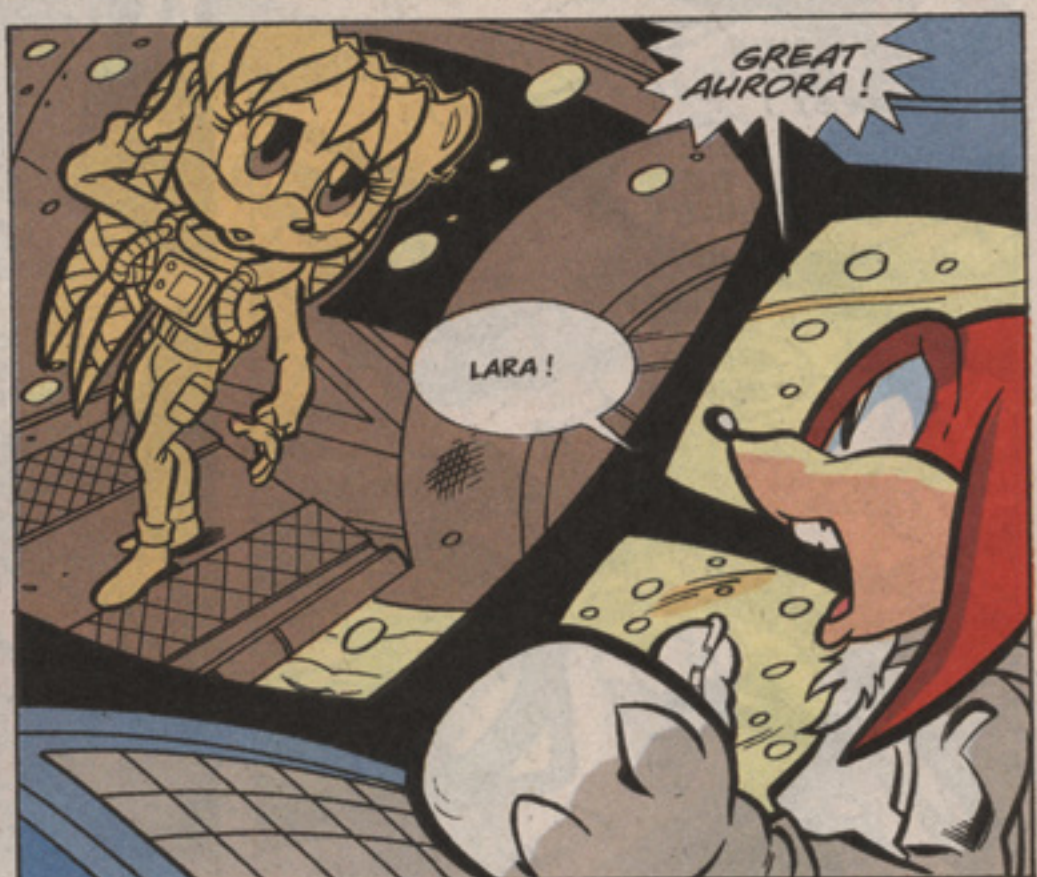
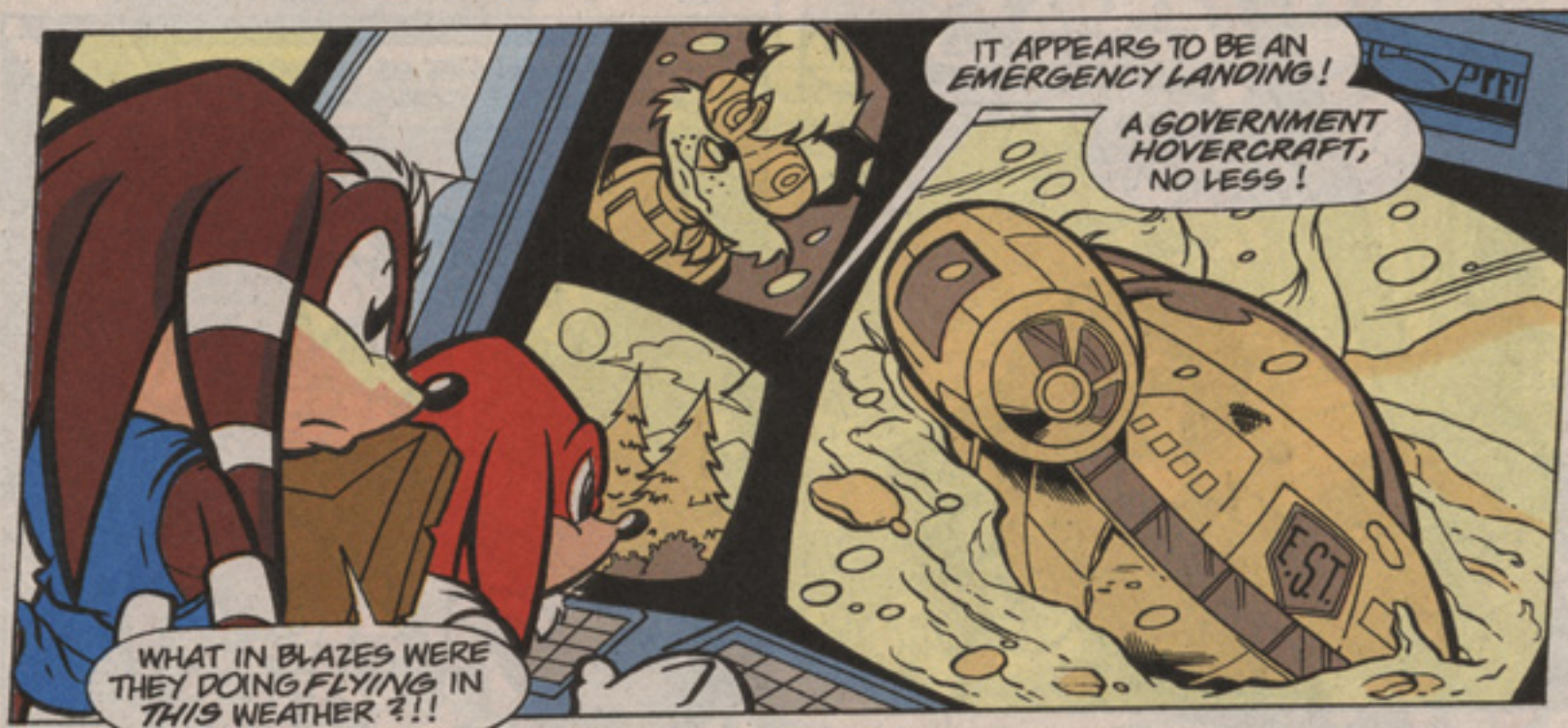
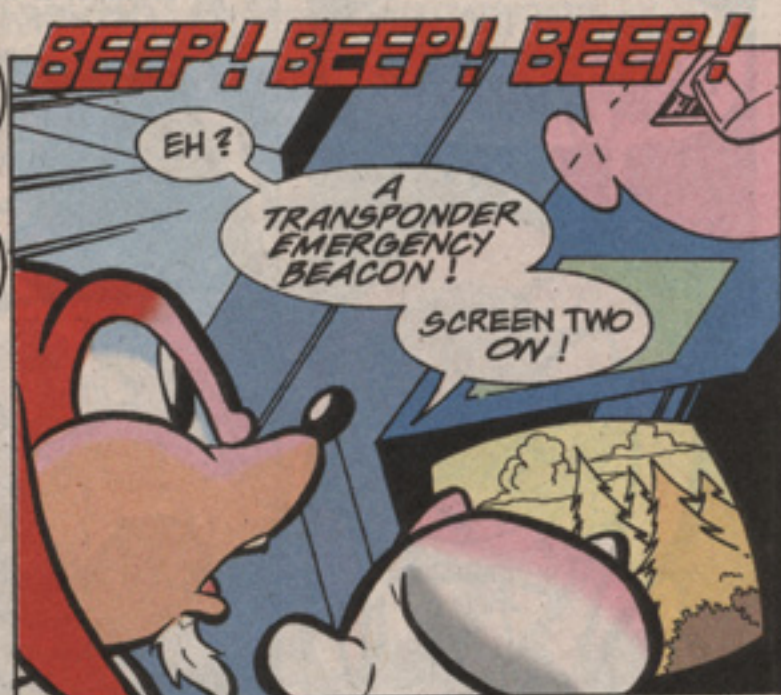
5. For a list of Grand Prize Winners, available after May 29, 1999, or for a copy of these Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Nabisco Universal Studios Trip Winners, P.O. Box 3599, Dept. Z, St. Cloud, MN 56397, by July 1, 1999.

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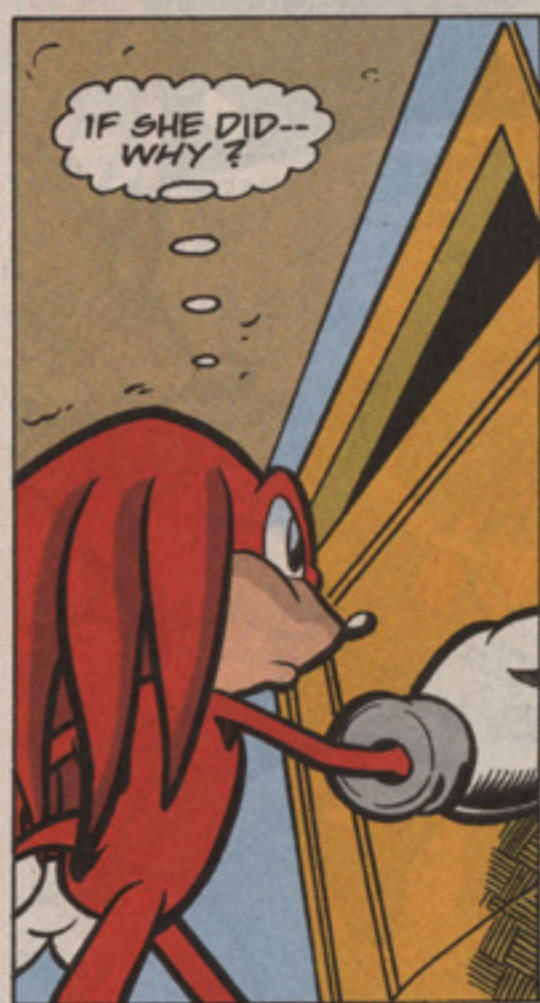
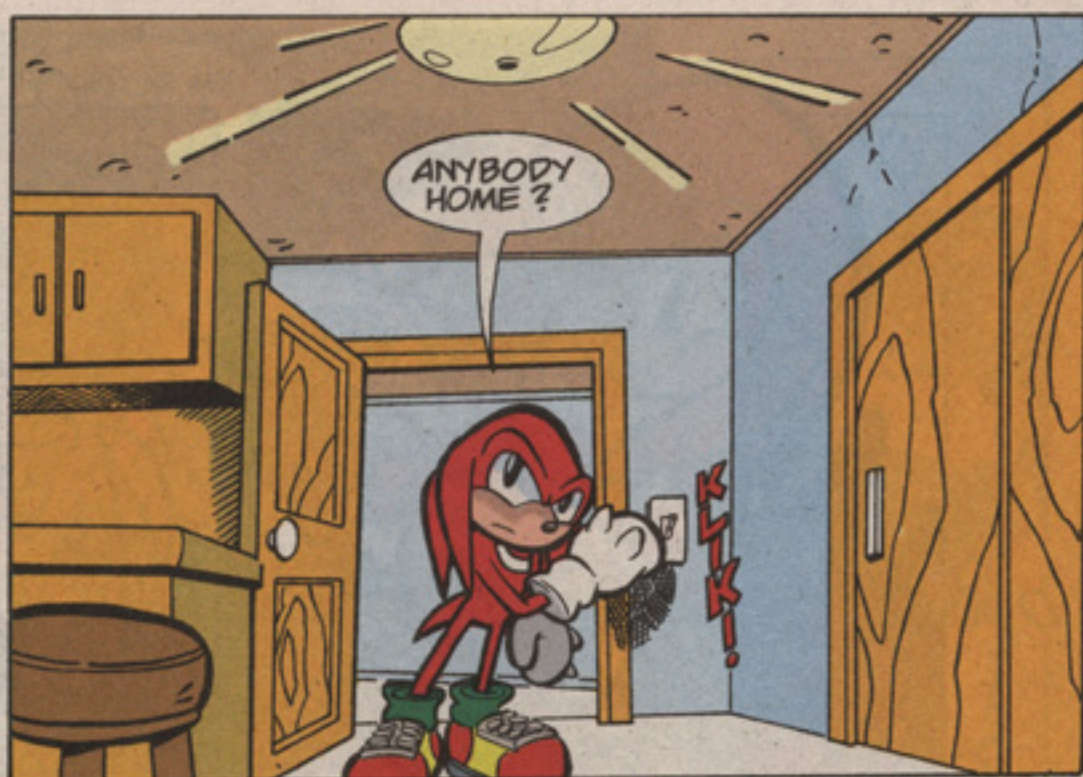




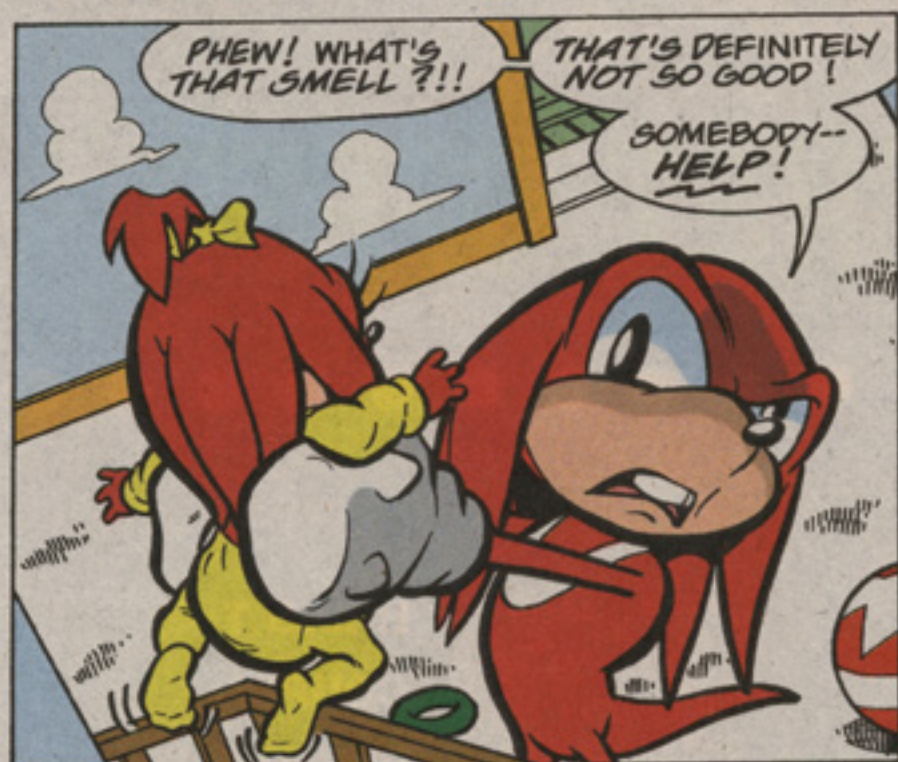




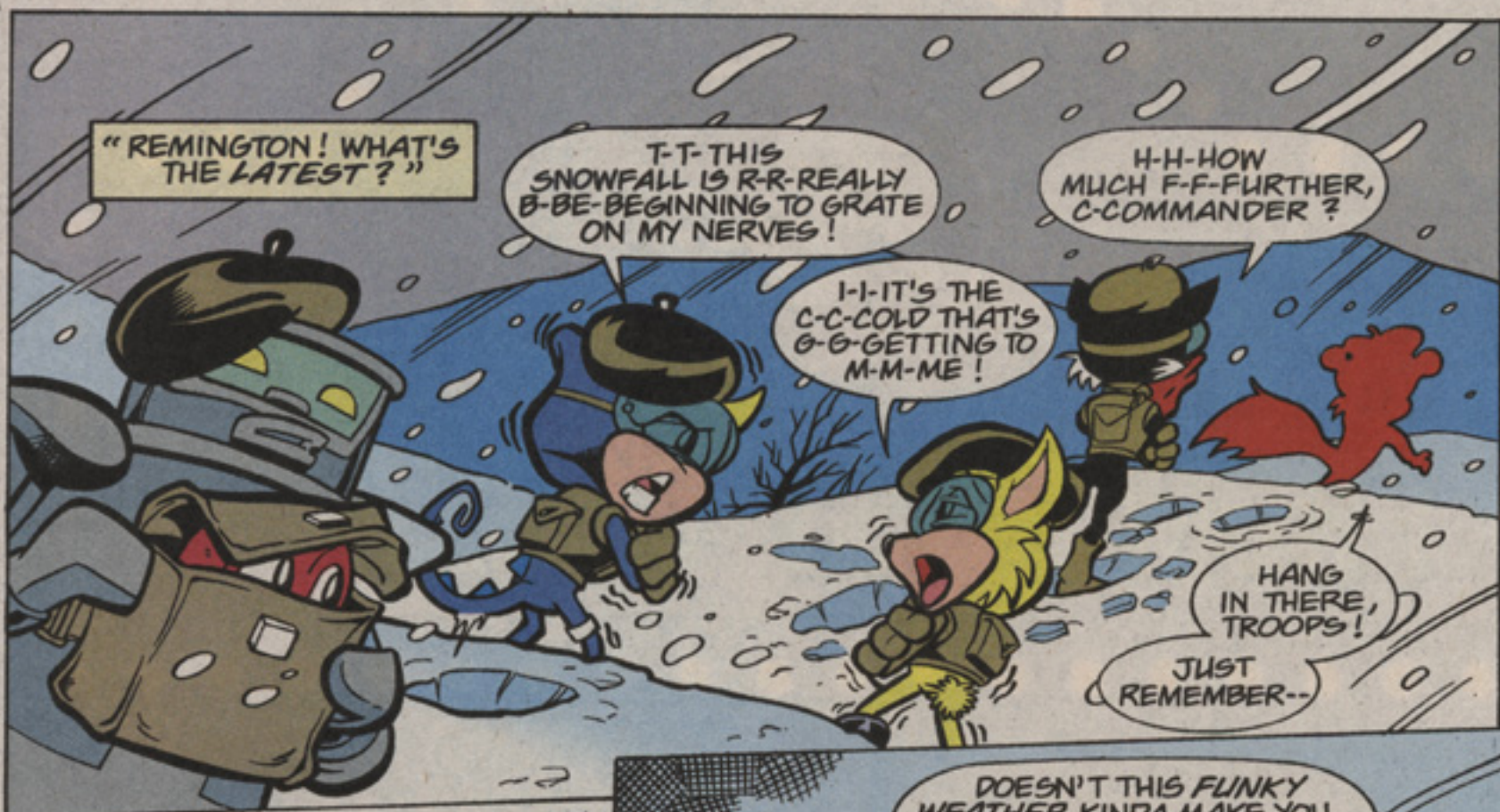












"REMINGTON! WHAT'S THE LATEST?"

T-T-THIS SNOWFALL IS R-R-REALLY B-BE-BEGINNING TO GRATE ON MY NERVES!

H-H-HOW MUCH F-F-FURTHER, C-COMMANDER?

I-I-IT'S THE C-C-COLD THAT'S G-G-GETTING TO M-M-ME!

HANG IN THERE, TROOPS!

JUST REMEMBER--



--W-W-WHEN THE GOING G-GETS TOUGH--

--THE TOUGH KEEP TRUDGING ON THROUGH THE SNOW!



DOESN'T THIS FUNKY WEATHER KINDA MAKE YOU THINK SOMETHING BIGGER'S GOING ON?

ROTOR TOLD ME RECENTLY HE THOUGHT ALL OF ROBOTNIK'S POLLUTION WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN THE LONG RUN!



WHY GET WORKED UP OVER THE WEATHER?

OUR ONLY CONCERN SHOULD BE THE MISSION!

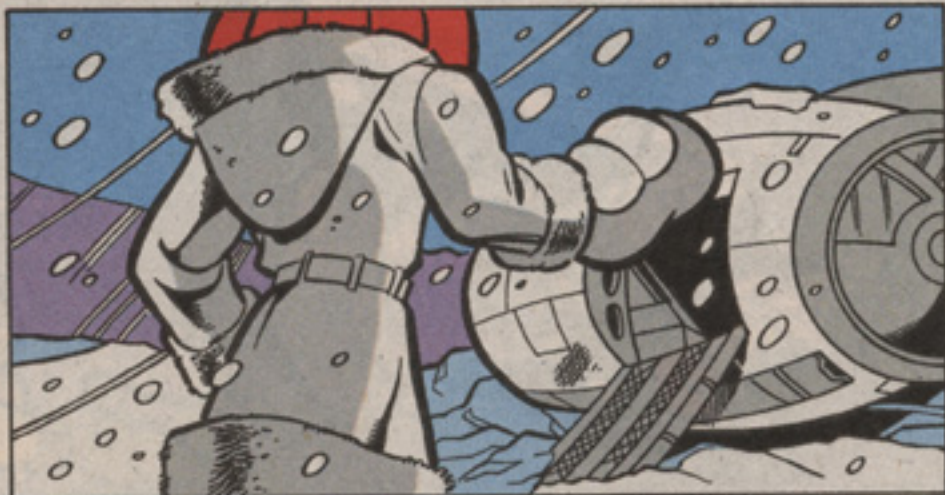
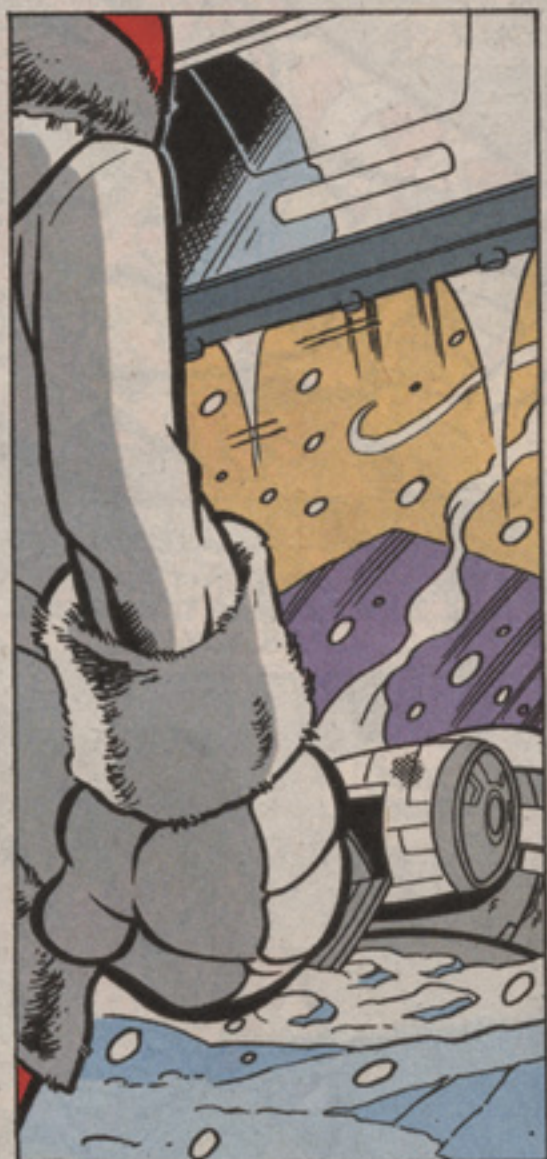
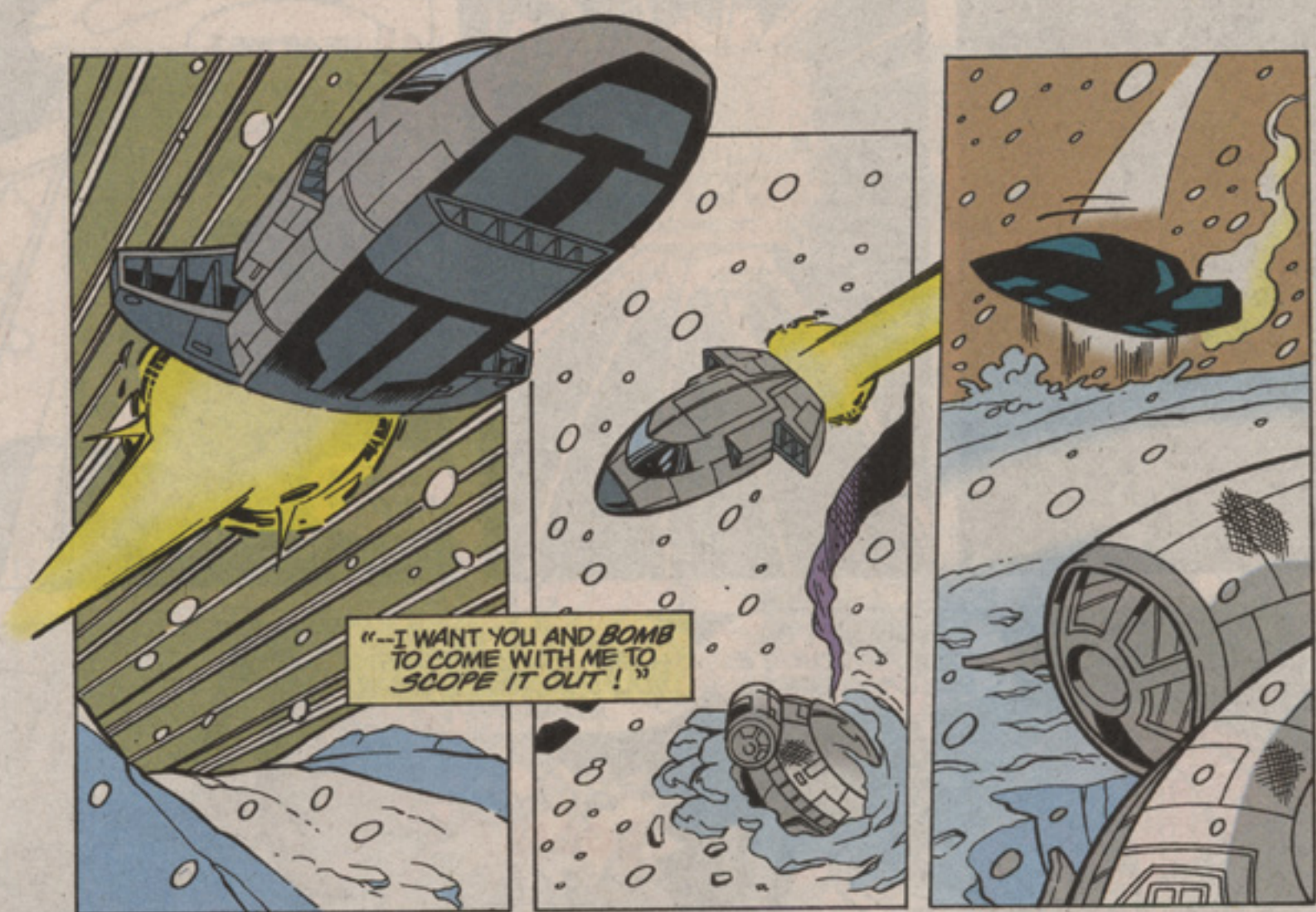


SPEAKING OF WHICH--

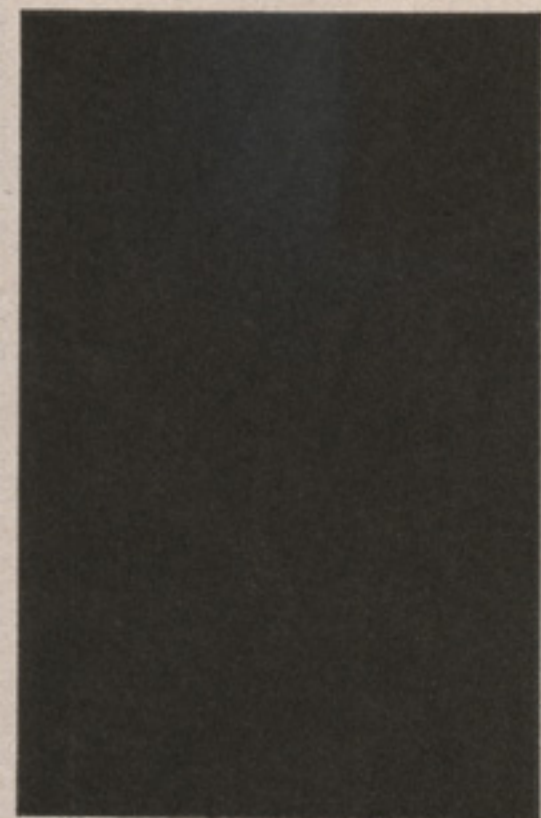
THERE'S SOMETHING UP AHEAD!

HEAVY--









**LARA!  
CAN YOU**



HEAR ME?

ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT?

WHA--?  
WHO--?



I MAY NOT BE  
YOUR FAVORITE  
ECHIDNA, LARA--

--BUT I FIND IT  
HARD TO COMPREHEND  
YOU'D FORGET YOUR  
HUSBAND!

OH, MY--!  
**LOCKE!**

YOU MEAN EX--  
DON'T YOU?



HERE I AM ALL CONCERNED ABOUT  
YOU, AND YOU'RE IMMEDIATELY ON  
THE DEFENSIVE!

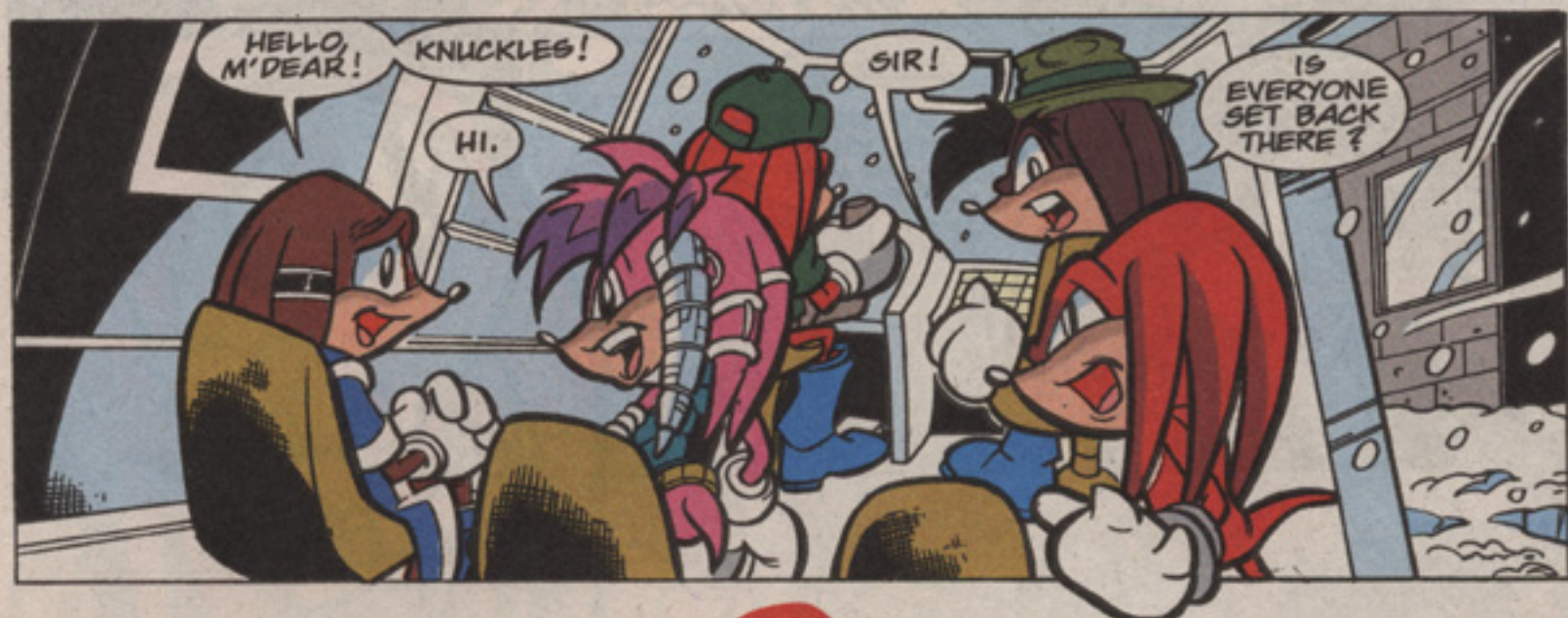
CAN YOU  
BLAME  
ME?



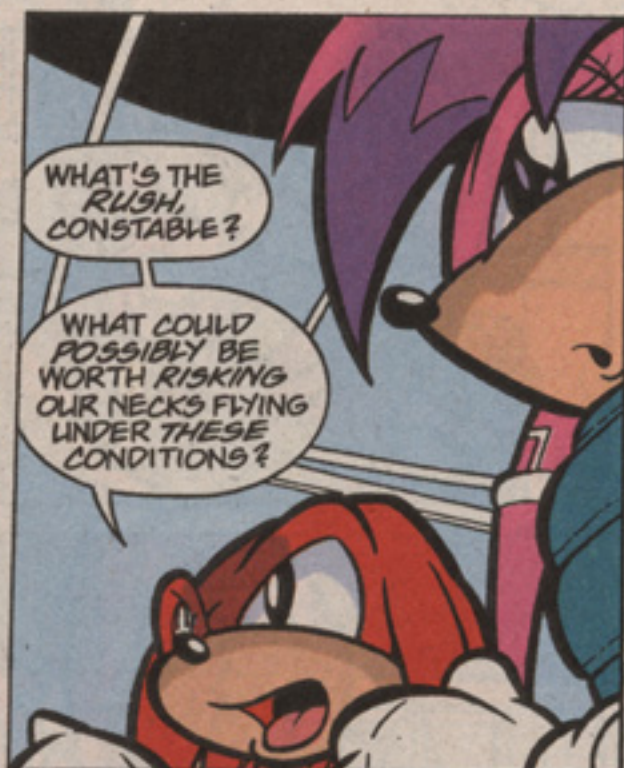
I WOULDN'T BE IN  
THIS MESS IF IT WEREN'T  
FOR YOU!

JUST  
ONCE--

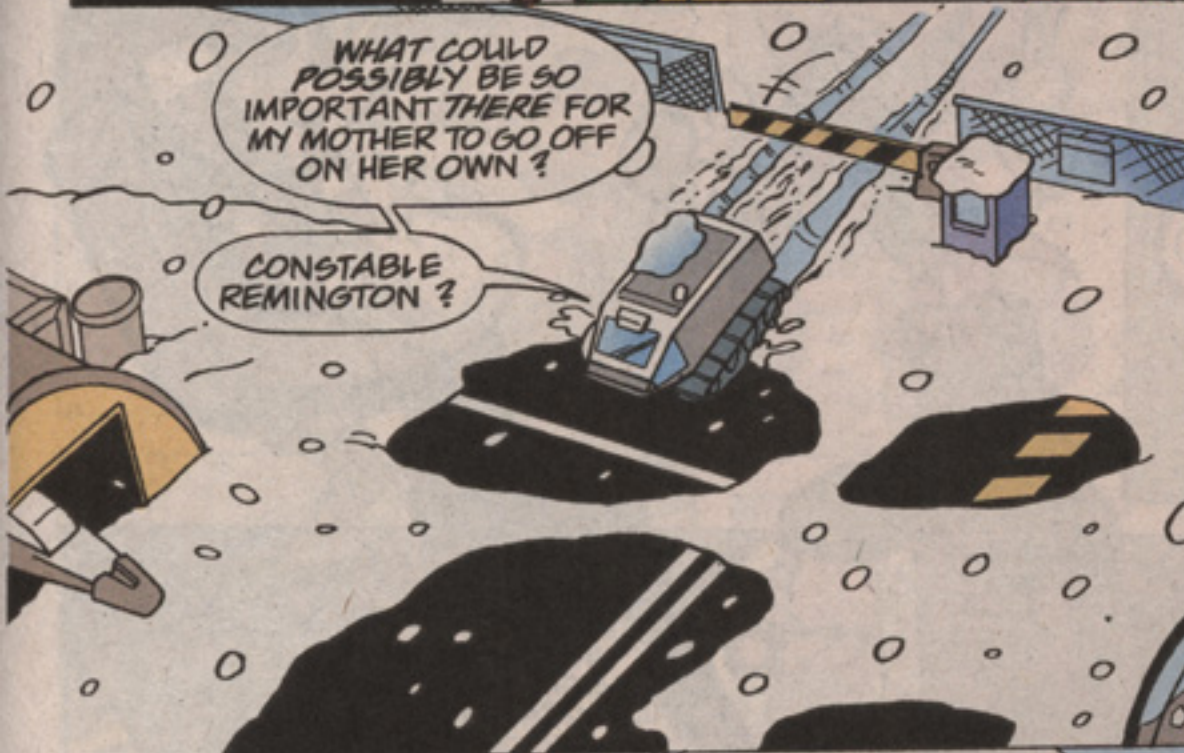




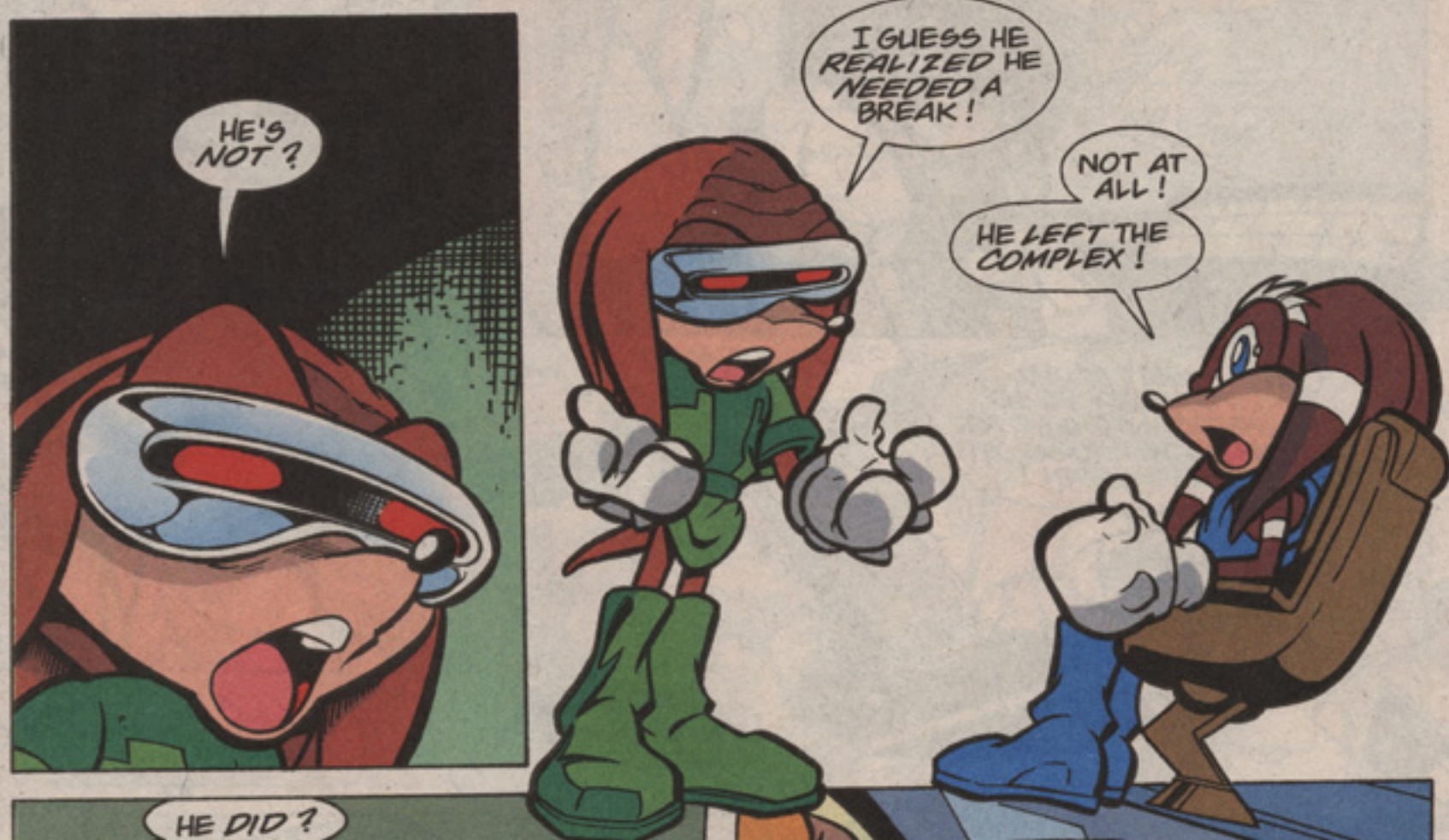




















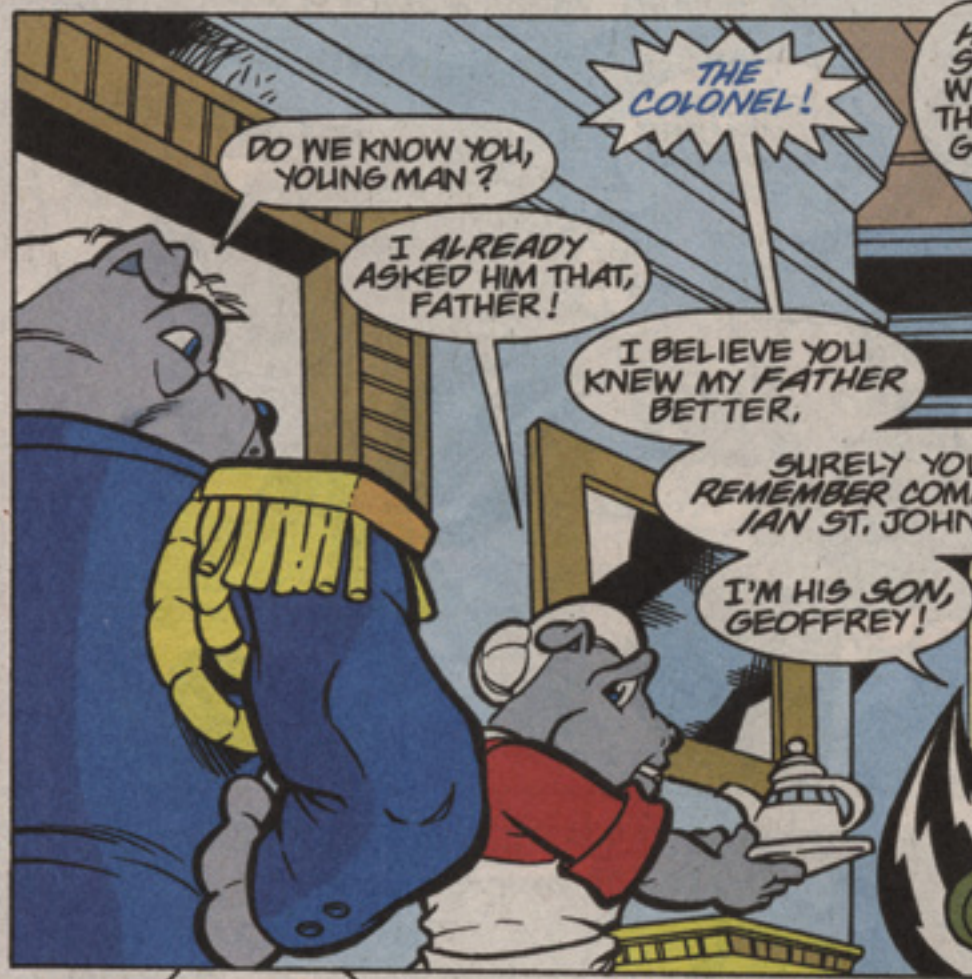
MRS. SOMMERSBY!! WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE!

DO I KNOW YOU, YOUNG MAN?

IS SOMETHING WRONG, MOTHER?



HRUMPH! SEE HERE! WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS GOING ON?



DO WE KNOW YOU, YOUNG MAN?

THE COLONEL!

I ALREADY ASKED HIM THAT, FATHER!

I BELIEVE YOU KNEW MY FATHER BETTER,

SURELY YOU REMEMBER COMMANDER IAN ST. JOHN?

I'M HIS SON, GEOFFREY!



WHY, YES, YES!

THE FAMILY RESEMBLANCE IS UNMISTAKABLE!

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, M'BOY?

YOU COULD'VE CAUGHT YOUR DEATH OF COVD!

HIS MAJESTY KING ACORN SENT US HERE TO ASCERTAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO QUEEN ALICIA!

SINCE SHE WAS SENT TO THE FLOATING ISLAND, THE COMPOUND SEEMED THE LOGICAL PLACE TO START LOOKING!





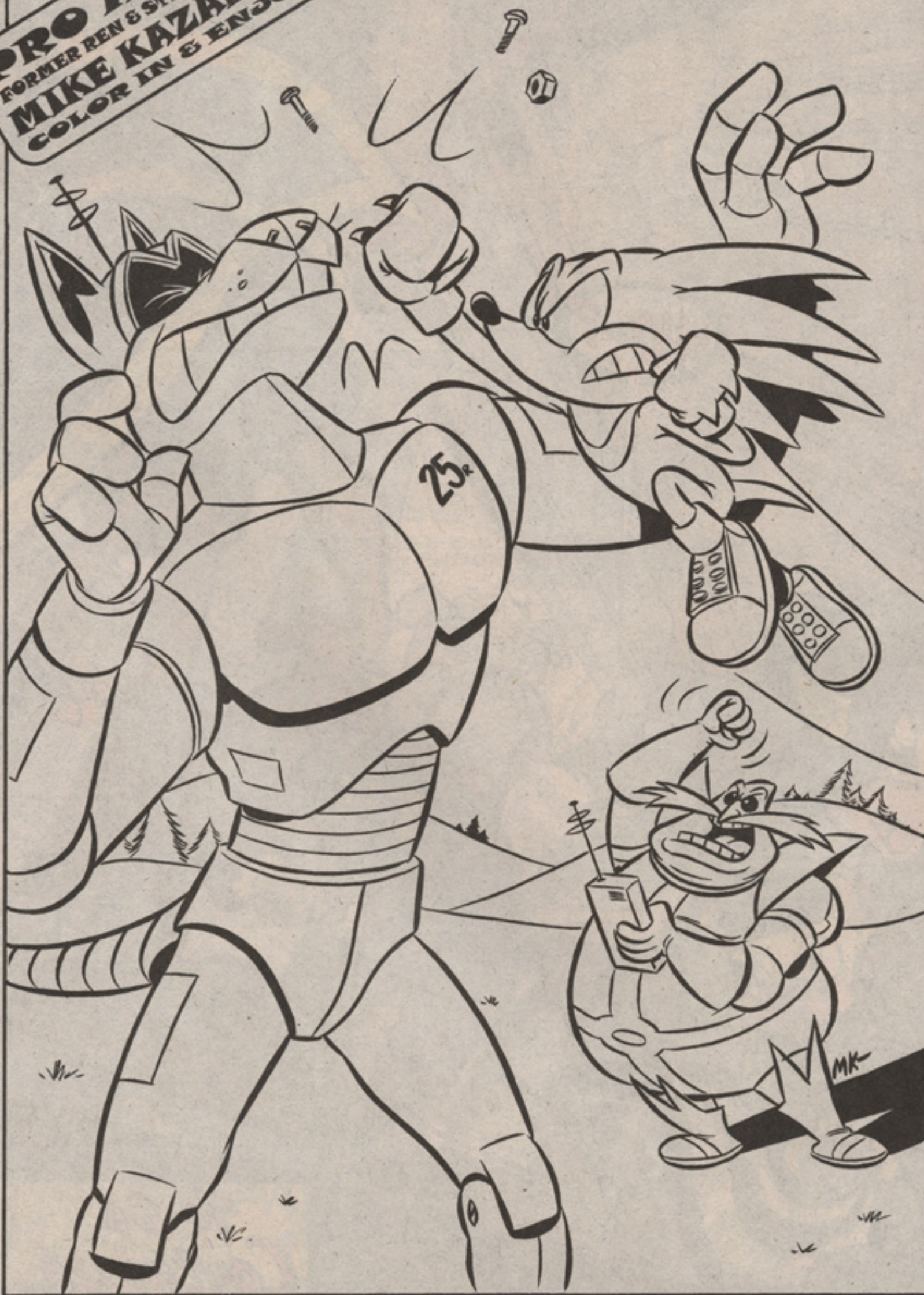
DID  
SOMEONE  
MENTION MY  
MOTHER?

WHO...?

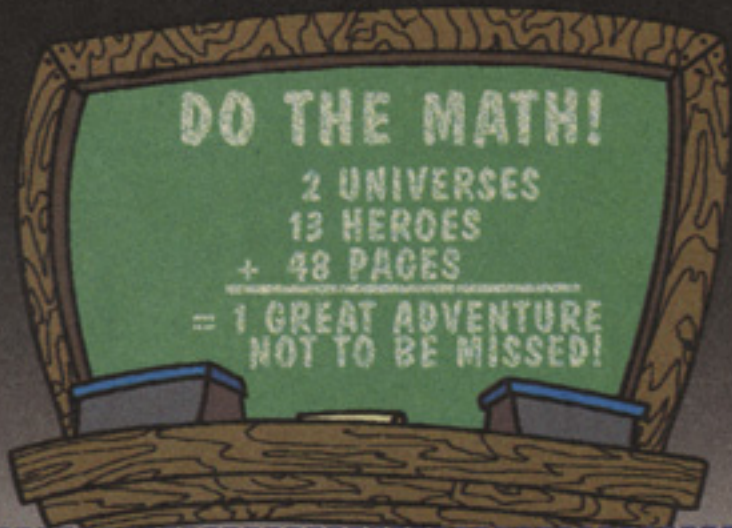
*To Be  
Continued...*



**PRO ART BY**  
FORMER REN & STIMPY ARTIST  
**MIKE KAZALEH!**  
COLOR IN & ENJOY.







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# FISTFUL OF LETTERS



## REVISITED!

**Next Month: "Once Upon a Time in Mobotropolis..."** The characters find themselves skiing down the now snow-covered Floating Island. Meanwhile, Locke and Lara-Le are reunited, **Geoffrey St. John**, along with his elite crew, come across an important new character with an amazing secret, and Knuckles stumbles upon **Haven!** Don't miss this exciting tale! Written by Ken Penders. Art by Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy. **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #20** on sale November 1998!

In other Mobian news...

**And in one week: Sonic, Knuckles and The Freedom Fighters** meet the heroes of Image Comics! While travelling the **Cosmic Interstate** in search of the stolen **Master Emerald**, they find themselves on the streets of **New York City**, teaming up with heroes like **Shadowhawk** and the **Savage Dragon**. Brought to you by the team of **Ken Penders** and **Jim Valentino**. **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #7** on sale October 1998! To order, look for coupons in this very issue!

**In four weeks: The Naugus Trilogy (Part Three of Three) "A Friend in Deed"** Sonic and Tails implore the return of **Nate** to **Mobotropolis** because of his

knowledge on the power rings. They are ambushed by **Ixis Naugus**. Our heroes take part in a super-powered struggle aided by **Nate's** rings. Who will be victorious? Story by **Karl Bollers** with art by **Steven Butler** and **Pam Eklund**. **SONIC**

**THE HEDGEHOG #66** on sale October 1998!



**KNUCKLES  
THE ECHIDNA #20  
ON SALE NOVEMBER 1998!**



**SONIC THE  
HEDGEHOG #66  
ON SALE OCTOBER 1998!**



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# #19

CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

JUSTIN  
FREDDY  
GABRIE

BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE, THE EDITORS CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT ALL CORRESPONDENCE WILL BE PUBLISHED AND RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT MESSAGES AS THEY SEE FIT.



NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF E-MAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ. THANKS FOR UNDERSTANDING!



The following letters refer to "The Forgotten Tribe" storyline appearing in **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA** #'s 10-12...

Every month, we receive one letter that stands out from the pack. One letter that is so special, it can only be referred to as "The Letter of the Month." This month, we congratulate Elizabeth Koculyn for joining the elite few, and we thank her for her outstanding letter:

To the many who produce the Knuckles Comics,

It is a pleasure to pick up the Knuckles comic every month. I truly appreciate all the hard work you do. In all my years of collecting comic books, I have never seen a better comic. Every month I enjoy finding out a little bit more about Knuckles' past. This is a wonderful concept you have created. I hope this remains in every issue I read. I would also like to see more echidna heroes of the female persuasion. Even though Julie-Su is present as a heroine, I feel that the comic is more centered on boys than girls. There are many girls who enjoy the comics, and I feel that there should be more heroines to take the stand along with the usual characters. A villain I would like to see more in the world of Knuckles is General D'Coolette. For either Julie-Su or Espio the Chameleon to have a mini-series would make my heart soar. They are very interesting and creative characters in themselves, and not much is known about either's past. I ask that this wish would come true. To conclude, I would like to congratulate the team for a wonderful 50 issues of Sonic comics, and I hope that someday Knuckles reaches this goal.

Elizabeth Koculyn  
Bellevue, Alberta  
Canada

We appreciate your praise greatly, Elizabeth. I am glad that you have enjoyed the work that we have done so far. Knuckles will continue to learn more about his family in the next couple of issues, so there is one wish of yours that may soon be granted. As for the Espio or Julie-Su comics, only time will tell whether or not they get their own titles. That is the only wish of yours that I cannot guarantee, but everything is possible in time. Thanks again for writing.

Hey Knux,

I gotta' admit that you da' man! You're true to your pals and pack a heavy punch. I may be a girl, but I still admire you. I really liked it when you saw your mother again, and can't wait until you see your father again. Which I definitely hope comes soon. I have some questions. One, what do you do for fun? What are the spikes on your hands? How close are you to Julie-Su? How do you feel about her? (Shhh, my friend thinks that you are cute.) Till next time, keep it real.

Your faithful Pal,  
Laura Lynn Lovell  
Fay, NC

Laura, your kind words would surely make Knuckles blush. Now, the answers to your questions. For fun, Knuckles likes to relax and loves to work out. The spikes on the hands are his knuckles, and they look like spikes through his gloves. Third, he and Julie-Su are good friends; who knows if there is anything more. Keep on reading for more answers. Also, Laura, the key-chain is great, THANKS!

Dear Knuckles,

I've always been a huge Sonic fan, but now I love your comics more.

They're much more sophisticated. Anyway, great job on issues 10-12, I love when you and Sonic work together. Can we see more of that? Plus, I love Rob' O' Hedgehog and Lady Marion. Please let us see more of them. Keep up the great work.

Yvonne Bonillas  
Imperial Beach, CA

Sonic and Knuckles will definitely be working together again sometime in the near future. Continue reading both titles (**Sonic The Hedgehog** and **Knuckles The Echidna**) to see when this happens. Also, we have been getting a lot of mail concerning Rob, so there is a good chance that he will show up again in a future issue. You seem like a true comic fan, and it's good to have people like you reading our comics.



## NOTES FROM THE NET

Knux,

I just finished reading Knux #12. I was bowled over! Great idea to include Sonic in your comic! After all, you've been in so many of his. Rob O' is really something. He has to be one of my fave characters. Even though he and Mari-An are echidna and hedgehog, I still think they make the cutest couple. One question: Why are most of the echidna names spelled with a dash? Your name is just "Knuckles," but they are "Mari-An," "Julie-Su," etc?

Christy Nisco (age 15)  
ChristytheGreat@webtv.net

Christy, only the female echidnas have dashes in their names. It's tradition.

SO UNTIL  
NEXT  
MONTH,  
STAY COOL!



